

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

WASO Public Health has prepared the following in response to numerous questions received from the field on immunizations for park employees:

As a standard operating procedure, inquiries regarding vaccinations for tetanus and hepatitis A and B and testing for tuberculosis infections are normally handled on a case-by-case basis through regional Public Health Service (PHS) consultants. The PHS consultant can properly assess the employee's individual risk of contracting a particular disease and make appropriate recommendations. **The cost of job-related immunizations should be the responsibility of the park.**

Tetanus

Maintenance and other employees should have a tetanus booster as part of their normal immunization schedule. A tetanus booster is effective for ten years.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for high risk occupations and for persons who travel to areas where hepatitis A is common. High risk groups include:

- Children in communities with high rates of hepatitis A, such as Alaska Native villages, American Indian reservations, and Pacific Islander and selected religious communities.
- Persons with chronic liver disease.
- Persons who work with hepatitis A-infected animals or work with hepatitis A in a research setting.

Hepatitis A vaccine is not recommended for EMS personnel, sewage plant workers, or personnel in other occupations where the risk of infection has been determined to be low.

Hepatitis B

Chapter 36 of NPS-50, NPS Safety and Health Guidelines is the NPS policy for management guidance on hepatitis B. It defines employee exposure risk determination, required personal protective equipment, biohazard waste management, and all other related hepatitis B issues.

A list of employees, other than

emergency medical service (EMS) personnel, who should have hepatitis B vaccinations appears in tables A and B in Chapter 36 of NPS-50. Listed are job classifications in which all or some employees have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials which may result in exposure to blood borne pathogens.

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis tests should not be performed as part of baseline medical evaluations. They should be conducted on a case-by-case basis.

REFERENCES

Health Information, National Services
Immunization Program, Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention,
Department of Health and Human

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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If you have any questions, please
contact your Regional Public Health
Consultant or park sanitarian, or call
WASO Public Health for more
information at **202-565-1120** or see our
NPS Public Health web page at
www.nps.gov/public_health/.

